

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	)	
	)	
<b>Yoshitada HIMENO et al.</b>	)	
	)	Group Art Unit: <b>Not Yet Assigned</b>
<b>Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned</b>	)	
	)	Examiner: <b>Not Yet Assigned</b>
<b>Filed: March 22, 2004</b>	)	
	)	
<b>For: ELECTRONIC MERCHANDISE</b>	)	
<b>DISTRIBUTION APPARATUS,</b>	)	
<b>ELECTRONIC MERCHANDISE RECEIVING</b>	)	
<b>TERMINAL, AND ELECTRONIC</b>	)	
<b>MERCHANDISE DISTRIBUTION METHOD</b>	)	

**Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449. With exception of the U.S. patent, a copy of the listed document is attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

The following is a concise statement of relevance of the non-English language documents:

1. Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-215590 – discloses a contents distribution method that employs a mediator between a contents provider and users. The mediator provides added values (secondary processing, the addition of an

advertisement, etc...) for the contents so as to promote the distribution. An English language abstract of this document is also enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

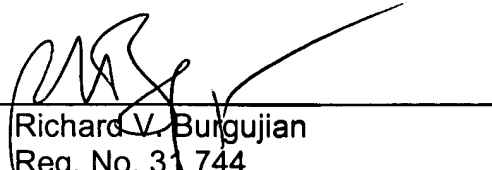
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 22, 2004

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Richard V. Burgujian  
Reg. No. 31,744

Enclosures  
RVB/FPD/sci

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	04329.3285	Serial No.	Not Yet Assigned
Applicants	Yoshitada HIMENO et al.		
Filing Date	March 22, 2004	Group:	Not Yet Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	6,434,747 B1	08/13/02	KHOO et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No	
2002-074053	03/12/02	JAPAN			ABSTRACT	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce